

McPherson
Sentinel
McPherson,KS
Circ. 3973
From Page:
3
2/8/2008
31489



died in 2006 at age 93.

155
**University of Kansas
students want beer
sold at Union again**

LAWRENCE (AP) — Students at the University of Kansas are pushing a proposal to reinstate sales of beer at a campus bowling alley and eatery for the first time in nearly a decade.

University union directors recently approved the student-led proposal.

But prospects for the return of beer sales at the Jaybowl and Hawks Nest are uncertain.

Three years ago, a similar proposal was rejected by then-Provost David Shullenburger. A spokeswoman for current Provost Richard Lariviere said he hadn't seen the proposal and declined to comment.

Sales of beer stopped in 1998 following the death of a student in a traffic accident. Both she and the driver were intoxicated.

Beer is sold at the student union at Kansas State University in the bowling and billiards areas.

155-82-253-11

Regents to take long look at tuition rates

Large increases at state universities may put caps in play

By **CHRIS GREEN**
Harris News Service

TOPEKA — The state Board of Regents could decide Wednesday whether to start placing limits on the tuition increases facing students and their families.

The nine-member board is scheduled to discuss setting new guidelines for the state's six public, four-year universities during this month's meeting, scheduled to begin at 1:30 p.m. in the Curtis State Office Building in Topeka.

Several members said recently that they're not sure yet where the talks will lead.

Board member Jill Docking, Wichita, who joined the Regents last year, said she hasn't decided whether to support a cap on tuition for next year or into the future. She said board members must first consider how such a move would affect students, their

families and the institutions they're attending.

"I think it's going to be about trying to balance what is fair and affordable for students and their parents and what is prudent for maintaining the excellence of our universities," Docking said.

Chairwoman Christine Downey-Schmidt, Inman said it would be important for board members to hear from university leaders before making any significant changes.

"It would be very premature for us to simply slap on a cap without hearing what their increased costs are," said

Downey-Schmidt, a former Democrat state senator from Inman who joined the board in 2005.

Presidents and officials for state universities are expected to comment. Fort Hays State University President Edward Hammond said now is the right time for board members to have an in-depth discussion on tuition.

Universities undertake a fairly extensive, monthslong

process to determine they're proposed rates by May, he said. At Fort Hays State, that includes soliciting student comment, Hammond said.

"If there's guidance or direction that the Board of Regents has, now's the time to come up with those directions," Hammond said. "Otherwise, the train's going to be

well down the track."

In years past, board members have set university tuition and fees charges each June. However, the board has typically just signed off on the suggested rates each school proposed a month earlier.

Last month, though, several board members called for a discussion of whether

the board should change its approach to setting tuition rates, including placing limits on tuition increases.

The move comes after a recent overhaul in the board's composition. Five new members joined the board in July.

Several members, particularly the new regents, expressed concern that the costs of attending state universities were rising too steeply and rapidly.

Since 2002, in-state tuition

and fees have more than doubled at the University of Kansas and Kansas State University. Increases at the state's other schools have averaged at least 8 percent a year.

At the same time, student debt loads among borrowers ranged from 5 percent to 21 percent higher for 2006 graduates than their 2004 counterparts.

Such steep increases prompted another new Regent, board member Gary Sherrer, Overland Park, to suggest the idea of the tuition cap.

Sherrer said in introducing the concept, he's thinking of

limiting tuition hikes next year to the rate of inflation in higher education, which could be around 3.5 percent to 4 percent.

"I'm just thinking of bringing it closer in line to inflationary costs, closer in line to what people's incomes are doing," Sherrer said.

However, the prospect of a cap could be of concern for universities, which have seen the percentage of their budgets supported by the state decline in recent years.

Hammond said a cap would be a concern for his school, since officials have worked to hold down tuition in recent years.

"There's only so much that each institution can really raise tuition before you begin to deny access," Hammond said.

Unlike some schools that have had larger increases, Hammond said Fort Hays State still has what he calls "elasticity" in its rates, meaning it could still raise charges some more without pricing out students.

Salina Journal
Salina, KS
Circ. 28602
From Page:
5
2/9/2008
31639





Salina Journal
Salina,KS
Circ. 28602
From Page:
5
2/9/2008
31639

Tuition keeps increasing

The following shows annual in-state tuition and fees for Kansas residents taking 15 hours of courses:

For the 2001-02 academic year:

- University of Kansas, \$2,884
- Kansas State, \$2,834
- Wichita State, \$2,858
- Emporia State, \$2,284
- Pittsburg State, \$2,338
- Fort Hays State, \$2,218

For the 2007-08 academic year:

- University of Kansas freshmen, \$7,146; all other KU undergrads, \$6,600
- Kansas State, \$6,235
- Wichita State, \$4,804
- Emporia State, \$3,926
- Pittsburg State, \$4,060

Washington Co.
News
Washington,KS
Circ. 2783
From Page:
4
2/7/2008
31762



155
KU lists fall honor roll students

LAWRENCE — More than 4,540 undergraduate students at the University of Kansas earned honor roll distinction for the fall 2007 semester. These students, from KU's Lawrence campus and the schools of allied health and nursing in Kansas City, Kan., represent 96 of 105 Kansas counties, 43 other states and the District of Columbia and 39 other countries.

The honor roll comprises undergraduates who meet requirements in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and in the allied health, architecture and urban design; business; education; engineering; fine arts; journalism; nursing; and social welfare schools.

Honor roll criteria vary among the university's academic units. Some schools honor the top 10 percent of students enrolled, some establish a

minimum grade-point average and others raise the minimum GPA for each year students are in school. Students must complete a minimum number of credit hours to be considered for the honor roll.

Students on the honor roll include:

Jamie George, Clyde, daughter of Michael and Barbara George, a junior studying Liberal Arts Under-

graduate. She is a graduate of Clifton-Clyde High School, Clyde,

Jesse Lundquist, Clyde, a senior undergraduate majoring in Liberal Arts Undergraduate. Also a graduate of Clifton-Clyde High School

Tristan Noelle, Greenleaf, son of Elaine Noelle, a senior undergraduate majoring in Liberal Arts. He is a graduate of Linn High School.

Clint Frye, Haddam, son of Donna and Jay Frye, a sophomore En-

gineering Undergraduate. He graduated from Belleville High School.

Ashley Doebele, Hanover, daughter of Rick and Becky Doebele. She is a senior undergraduate majoring in Liberal Arts. She graduated from Hanover High School

Kristin Grover, Morrowville, daughter of Jim and Linda Grover, a senior undergraduate student majoring in Liberal Arts Undergraduate. She graduated from North Central High School, Morrowville.

Johnathan Leck, Washington, son of Mary and John Leck, a Liberal Arts Undergraduate Senior. He is a graduate of Washington High School.

Anthony Strickland, Washington, son of Joe and Michaelle Strickland, a Liberal Arts Undergraduate Senior. He graduated from Washington High School.

163-282-155-261
Kansas Wheat and KSU receive Bioscience Authority Grant

Kansas Wheat and Kansas State University announced that they have received a \$200,000 planning grant from the Kansas Bioscience Authority for the purpose of developing plans for the proposed Kansas Innovation Center for Advanced Plant Design: "Plants for the Heartland."

The Kansas Bioscience Centers of Innovation program is designed to establish centers of excellence that will clearly define Kansas as an international leader in research and commercialization for one or more bioscience platforms that will have a substantial, measurable and sustainable positive impact on the state's economy.

At the end of the six-month planning grant period, the Bioscience Authority will review all submitted proposals and may award contracts for the completion of proposed centers.

The Kansas Innovation Center for Advanced Plant Design: "Plants for the Heartland" would focus on the emerging commercial opportunities for wheat, sorghum, small grains, and native plants and grasses. By coordinating efforts across the state, nation and the world, the Center would ac-

celerate scientific discoveries and innovation in plant bioscience. The Center would be business collaboration among plant science industry groups and university research counterparts. The Kansas Wheat Commission of Manhattan and K-State will be the lead organization for founding the center. Facilities for the Center would be headquartered on the campus of Kansas State University in Manhattan, collaborating with existing research programs at the University of Kansas in Lawrence and elsewhere. The Center would unlock the power of plant genomes to create a host of novel products.

"The Center would be a pivotal opportunity for Kansas," said Kansas Wheat chief executive officer Dusti Fritz. "World food security depends on three major (wheat, rice, maize) and several minor (barley, sorghum, millets) cereal crops. Kansas is a major producer of two of these crops (wheat and sorghum). The current global shortage of wheat and sor-

ghum demonstrates the opportunity that exists for Kansas to be in a pivotal position to lead innovation in these crops and continue as the breadbasket

of the world. These crops now have the opportunity to meet other energy and industrial needs as we transition from fossil fuels into renewable sources of energy and industrial goods. The genomic sciences offer unprecedented opportunity to identify genetic advantages to redesign plants for target uses. The establishment of this center would be a game-changing opportunity for Kansas to take the premier leadership role in this new economy based on high-tech science."

The Center's Native Plants Innovation Team will be led by Dr. Barbara Timmerman, University Distinguished Professor and Chair of Medicinal Chemistry at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. Native Plants Team members will include faculty and staff from the University of Kansas, Kansas State University and the KU Medical Center. The Team's efforts will focus on using advanced plant design techniques to produce novel therapeutic drugs derived from Kansas native plants.

"The Kansas Innovation Center for Advanced Plant Design will build a strong new future for exploration, discovery and development of valuable natural product drugs that prevent and cure diseases in humans and animals," KU's Timmerman said.

Dr. Fred Cholick, Dean of K-State's College of Agriculture and director of

K-State Research and Extension said, "This center will position Kansas as the global leader in plant genetics by translating innovative research into value-added agricultural products delivered to the market place. For Kansas, this would create new jobs and attract the best and brightest minds in plant bioscience to Manhattan, Kansas. Overall, it will enhance the economy of Kansas and the region, particularly in rural areas."

"There is a new era emerging in agriculture. Wheat and sorghum are currently losing ground to corn and soybean production. In spite of their lack of environmental compatibility for much of the state, corn and soybeans currently offer a short-term eco-

Advocate of
Phillips County
Phillipsburg, KS
Circ. 1874
From Page:
6b
2/7/2008
31827





conomic advantage to producers, and are more preferred by end users in the livestock and biofuel sectors,” said Kansas Wheat Commissioner Dean Stoskopf. “Because of this approach, profitability for dryland farmers is at risk and ground water resources are being depleted. Advanced plant design affords a sustainable, long-term

solution to this challenge by improving the performance of wheat and sorghum, which are better suited for Kansas. Bioscience is the key to unlocking the maximum potential of crops grown for the benefit of the state’s economy and the world’s consumers.”

Advocate of
Phillips County
Phillipsburg, KS
Circ. 1874
From Page:
6b
2/7/2008
31827

KU¹⁵⁵ grad students to assist authority with riverfront plan

BY MICHAEL GLOVER
The Fort Scott Tribune

Graduate students from the University of Kansas will be helping the Fort Scott/Bourbon County Marmaton Riverfront Authority move its plan forward to revitalize the Marmaton river.

The seven students met Friday with the riverfront authority and officials at Citizens Bank to discuss the project and where they want to go from this point forward.

The graduate students will be focusing on two main areas. First, they want to help the authority in securing available federal and state grants and private donations. Second, they want to assist in providing advice on infrastructure and other components that will be necessary to build the riverwalk.

"My students were very enthusiastic about our visit to Fort Scott and are eager to start working on our project there," said Stacey Swearingen-White, associate professor of the Graduate Program in Urban Planning at K.U. and the class instructor.

The riverfront authority was formed last year and approved by the Kansas Legislature to develop a plan for developing the Marmaton River into a riverwalk area for the purpose of preservation, protection and interpretation of the river's ecosystem and the enjoyment and education for visitors and citizens of Fort Scott, according to its mission statement.

The riverwalk will have a hiking and biking trail and, if developed according to the plan, a constant flow of water to sup-

port boating, canoeing and fishing.

Since its inception, the authority has made strides in acquiring land for the project. Landowners have already donated three parcels of land, and the committee is waiting on a contract from Union Pacific Railroad, which owns land on the southern portion of where a portion riverwalk will be located, said Dean Mann, chairman of the authority.

They've also developed a strategic action plan that outlines goals for this year.

Swearingen-White's graduate students last year did a comprehensive report of the project that detailed suggestions on what components of the project would work and those that would not be such a good idea.

In fact, the report won the New Horizon Award for best student group project completed at a Kansas school. The project won for creative, innovative and feasible planning on the riverfront report.

The graduate students last year helped the committee become more educated on what will go into the project, such as environmental and recreational issues.

"There are a lot of things in our dream that we don't have a lot of experience with other than dreaming," Mann said.

This year's class meets on Tuesday and Thursday and haven't met since Friday's meeting, so the students haven't ironed out specifics of what they'll be doing.

A complicated issue facing the authority is the creation of a

weir (a low water dam) to provide a constant flow of water on the river. Most of the year, the river doesn't flow and, as a result, isn't useable for a riverwalk, Mann said.

"We believe by putting in that dam, we will be able to hold water in a 6-to-8-mile stretch of the river that will be useable from a standpoint of recreational use like paddling, canoes and boats and fishing," Mann said.

Committee member Bob Love asked the K.U. students to find a way to mitigate aspects in putting a weir on the river.

The students may focus on how a weir might best meet the needs of the project in terms of retaining sufficient water for recreational uses, while at the same time avoiding harm to the aquatic ecosystem, Swearingen-White said. The students will look for examples of environmentally sensitive weirs and how those might apply to this project. Putting in a weir would likely require several levels of permission, too, so the students will also investigate those questions, she said.

The students will also be looking at assisting with the writing of one or two grant proposals to support early parts of the project.

Mann said the project will be funded through grants and private donations, not through a tax hike.

According to initial cost estimates, the project will cost \$4.5

(See PLAN on Page 2)



Ft. Scott Tribune
Fort Scott, KS
Circ. 2787
From Page:
1
2/12/2008
32234



Plan _____

(Continued from Page 1)

million.

Swearingen-White said that she'll have to go back through last year's report to identify specific grant opportunities that might be available.

"I expect we'll be able to find some offered by state agencies (such as KDHE), the federal EPA, and/or private foundations," she said.

Ft. Scott Tribune
Fort Scott,KS
Circ. 2787
From Page:
2
2/12/2008
32234



208-155
Kansas Honors Program banquet to be held to recognize local students

Thirty-eight high school seniors from Jackson and Nemaha counties will be honored next week for achieving positions in the top 10 percent of their respective classes.

These students will be honored by the University of Kansas Alumni Association and KU Endowment during the annual Kansas Honors Program banquet, set for 6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 18 at First United Methodist Church, 1401 W. Fourth St. Students recognized as Kansas Honor Scholars will receive an American Heritage Dictionary in hardback and CD versions, presented by Sarah Blaney, assistant director of Kansas programs for the KU Alumni Association.

Lynn Bretz, director of university communications at KU, will speak to students, parents and guests. Honored students will be guests of the Alumni Association and KU Endowment; parents and area alumni are welcome to attend at a cost of \$9 each.

Honored students, listed by school, include:

■ **B&B (Baileyville):** Brent Bergman, Michelle Bergman and Troy Lierz.

■ **Berg:** Bryson Haverkamp.

■ **Centralia:** Katie Crowther and Derek Rempe.

■ **Holton:** Crista Bechard, Cassandra Brownell, Jennifer Cordell, Alicia Coverdale, Rachel DeLay, Preston Determan, Breanna Eck, Elizabeth Jarski, Kevin Middlemist and Sara Smith.

■ **Jackson Heights (Holton):** Baillie Heideman, Lucas Straub and Regina Tanking.

■ **Nemaha Valley (Seneca):** Courtney Huerler, Brittney Imholte, Laura Kohake, Stephanie Nordhus, Patrick Schulte and Stephen Winkler.

■ **Royal Valley:** Courtney Barger, Trevor Bausch, Lindsey Boyer, Tiffany Burget, Ashley Chance, Briana Christian, Jessica Huff and Kayla Miller.

■ **Sabetha:** Christian Busch, Jordan Meyer, Jacob Nagely and Amber Teske.

■ **Wetmore:** Scott Henry.

Community volunteers collect reservations, coordinate details and serve as local contacts for the event. Matt and Paula Taylor of Holton are site coordinators as well as Jackson County coordinators; Jackie Olberding of Seneca is the county coordinator for Nemaha County.

The Kansas Honors Program is made possible through KU Endowment and proceeds from the Jayhawk license plate program.

The Kansas Honors Program began in 1971 and has honored more than 100,000 students. Scholars rank in the top 10 percent of their high school senior classes and are selected regardless of curricula, majors, occupational plans or higher-education goals.

Holton Recorder
Holton,KS
Circ. 4724
From Page:
1
2/11/2008
32324



Hays Daily
News
Hays, KS
Circ. 12629
From Page:
6
2/8/2008
31288



Editorial

153 Second chance

Program will give disabled vets skills for next phase of life

In the words of University of Kansas Chancellor Robert Hemenway, "The welcome mat is out at KU."

Disabled veterans will be eligible for a new education program as part of a plan unveiled at Fort Leavenworth by the U.S. Army this week, another sign that those afflicted by wounds from Middle East service won't be forgotten.

Eight current and former soldiers will take part in the KU plan initially, enrolling in graduate programs at KU this fall. Regardless of their home state, soldiers will be eligible for in-state tuition rates, about \$2,100 a semester.

Those student soldiers then will owe the Army three years of service — either on active duty or as civilian employees — for each year they spend in school.

It appears a win-win program. The Army gets the educated, trained people it needs to carry out 21st century tasks, and the former soldiers will have a chance to better their standing in life.

To qualify, the soldiers must be

classified as at least 30-percent disabled.

In a time when memories of a post-Vietnam America uneasily are remembered, it is a relief federal and state officials have created this proactive program.

"You had some soldiers that had not received the care that they needed. When that became known to the Army, it was a like an electric shock to the system," Army Secretary Pete Geren said. "The Army has stepped up. Soldiers do take care of soldiers. And when the soldiers learned that some people had dropped the ball and not taken care of soldiers, the whole system responded. We're trying to pay a debt to the soldiers who have given so much to this country."

Hemenway said other schools have made inquiries about the program, and the Army hopes to expand the program to other universities.

It's an optimistic sign Kansas is taking a lead in the effort to ensure our veterans — especially those who sacrificed their youth and health — will have opportunities when they return home.

Education won't return health to these soldiers, but it might allow them to enter a new, positive, rewarding phase of their lives.

Editorial by Ron Fields
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Hays Daily
News
Hays,KS
Circ. 12629
From Page:
12
2/10/2008
31288



¹⁹⁹
**KU students: Sell us
beer at the union**

LAWRENCE (AP) — Students at the University of Kansas are pushing a proposal to reinstate sales of beer at a campus bowling alley and eatery for the first time in nearly a decade.

University union directors recently approved the student-led proposal.

But prospects for the return of beer sales at the Jaybowl and Hawks Nest are uncertain.

Three years ago, a similar proposal was rejected by then-Provost David Shullenburger.

Sales of beer stopped in 1998 following the death of a student in a traffic accident.

Both she and the driver were intoxicated.

Beer is sold at the student union at Kansas State University in the bowling and billiards areas.

Power plant engines to travel up Vine Street

By **MIKE CORN**
HAYS DAILY NEWS

The task of moving electric generation engines from the railroad tracks near Eighth and Vine to the Goodman Energy Center northwest of Hays is expected to begin Tuesday morning. That will mean some traffic disruptions, but not to the extent that was first expected.

Instead, said Midwest Energy spokesman Bob Helm, the truck that will haul the engines will have top speeds of up to 30 miles per hour. Initially, they had been told it would have top speeds of no more than 4 mph.

One of the engines destined for the natural gas generation facility was loaded onto the truck's two trailers Thursday.

The truck, which could transfer one of the six engines every other day, still is expected to head north on Vine Street. When it reaches 27th Street, the truck will head west to the U.S. Highway 183 Bypass, and then head north crossing Interstate 70 and continuing on to the Goodman Energy Center.

The goal is to have six of nine engines in place by early summer so Midwest can start producing electricity to cover the needs of customers during the peak use months in the summer.

The first engine, Helm said, should be leaving the railroad

siding at about 9 a.m. Tuesday, providing the weather cooperates.

The trip should take anywhere from two to three hours to complete, he said, but will cause some traffic issues.

Vine Street, Helm said, will not be closed, but motorists who are caught behind the massive truck as it heads north will not be able to pass.

The truck and its trailers, measuring more than 100 feet long, will be escorted along the route by law enforcement officers.

"It really won't take very long to go north on Vine," Helm said.

Once it arrives at the intersection of 27th and Vine, however, traffic will be halted from all directions as the truck makes the turn west.

"The guy we talked to this morning said they didn't think it would take more than 5 minutes," Helm said of the contractor, Emmert International, based in Clackamas, Ore.

While the truck is more than 100 feet long, it has a series of axles to distribute the weight of the load, and each axle can be independently turned.

As the transport heads west on 27th, Helm said there's a possibility that the street could be closed from Hall to the bypass simply because it is a two-lane road.

Once the engine reaches the Goodman center, it will be shifted over to another trailer that can be driven into the building where the engine will be located.

Special-projects coordinator Mike Corn can be reached at (785) 628-1081, Ext. 129, or by e-mail at mcorn@dailynews.net.



Hays Daily
News
Hays,KS
Circ. 12629
From Page:
3
2/10/2008
31288





STEVEN HAUSLER / Hays Daily News

Engines destined for the Goodman Energy Center sit on rail cars on the south end of Hays Wednesday.

Hays Daily
News
Hays,KS
Circ. 12629
From Page:
3
2/10/2008
31288

Hays Daily
News
Hays, KS
Circ. 12629
From Page:
3
2/10/2008
31288



199-133

Capitol outlook: Snipits from the statehouse

By **CHRIS GREEN**
and **SARAH KESSINGER**
HARRIS NEWS SERVICE

'Speedy Gonzales, sir'

Rules are rules, even if you're Grover Norquist, a leader in the nation's conservative movement and president of Americans for Tax Reform.

Norquist testified at the Kansas Statehouse Thursday against an energy bill that would enact a fee on power generators whose new plants exceed an emissions cap outlined in the legislation. Norquist and other fiscal conservatives consider such fees to be a new tax.

However, shortly after Norquist entered the room and began testifying, Senate Utilities Committee Chairman Jay Emler, R-Lindsborg, stopped him.

"Mr. Norquist, you unfortunately — I apologize for interrupting — you have three minutes and please don't read your testimony," Emler said. "You weren't in here when I said what the rules were."

Not only did Norquist speak within Emler's limits, he finished one-minute early.

"That's it," Norquist said and left the podium. "Speedy Gonzales, sir."

Outlook: dry

University of Kansas climatologist Johannes Fedemma walked legislative committees through charts this past week showing his studies on the long-term effects of global warming on Kansas.

It's difficult to accurately predict, he noted, but models show a drying trend as temperatures rise.

For western Kansas, Fedemma projects water deficits in the range of 2.09 to 4.06 inches by 2050 and 5.24 to 8.27 inches by 2100.

This would mean longer growing seasons, he noted, "but without water it won't do you much good.

"I believe these projections will have significant impacts on local communities in the future," Fedemma testified, "although specific impacts will depend on the choices and adaptations made by the people of Kansas in the future."



Hays Daily
News
Hays,KS
Circ. 12629
From Page:
3
2/10/2008
31288



Welcome back

Rep. Dan Johnson, R-Hays, is on the mend from a hip replacement and expects to be back in action at the Statehouse Monday, according to Rep. Eber Phelps, D-Hays.

Speaking on the House floor Friday, Phelps urged fellow House members to offer Johnson a warm welcome upon his arrival to the 2008 session.

"I am grateful for the wonderful support from so many as I continue to recover from hip surgery," Johnson said in his weekly newsletter, "Straight Shots from Dan."

"There are many important issues to be debated and discussed this session."

Johnson arrives amid legislative buzz over a bill surrounding one of his hometown utilities, Sunflower Electric Power Corp.

"This is one of the defining issues of the 2008 session," Johnson wrote.